Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 VO-05 INSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /088 R

DRAFTED BY HA/ORM:LROSENBLATT:LGS APPROVED BY HA/ORM:JLCARLIN HA/ORM:HBCUSHING EA/RA:FBENNETT HA/ORM:SCLOWMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
USLO PEKING PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, MC

SUBJECT: INDOCHINA REFUGEE CENTER PROPOSED FOR MACAU AND OVERCROWDING IN HONG KONG.
REF: A. HONG KONG 14154 B. HONG KONG 14221 (NOTAL)

1. DEPARTMENT NOTES WITH INTEREST POSSIBILITY THAT MACAU GOVERNOR WILL OFFER A SITE FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEE TRANSIT

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CENTER. WHILE THE IDEA IS WORTH PURSUING IF RAISED BY THE GOVERNOR, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT FOR THE MOMENT UNHOR HAS ITS HANDS FULL IN TRYING TO IMPLEMENT SIMILAR OFFER ALREADY OBTAINED FROM SINGAPORE AND ONE THAT IS MORE IMPORTANT FOR MEETING NEEDS OF ESCAPING BOAT REFUGEES GIVEN SINGAPORE'S LOCATION ASTRIDE THE SOUTH CHINA SEA SHIPPING LANES AND THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN NEIGHBOR-

ING COUNTRIES.

2. IF THE REFUGEE CENTER PROPOSAL IS MADE BY THE GOVERNOR HE SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE REGIONAL UNHER REPRESENTATIVE AS YOU INTEND. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO ASK GOVERNOR, SHOULD HE BRING UP SUBJECT, WHAT PRECONCEPTIONS MACAU AUTHORITIES ENTERTAIN AS TO SIZE AND DURATION OF SUCH A CENTER.

3. IF A CENTER IN MACAU APPEARS TO BE BEST SOLUTION TO

TIGHTNESS OF REFUGEE ACCOMMODATIONS IN HONG KONG NOTED IN REFTEL B, DEPARTMENT COULD BE PERSUADED THAT U.S. SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN HAVING CG RAISE THE SUBJECT WITH MACAU GOVERNOR. PLEASE INFORM IF THIS IS BEST WAY OF MEETING HONG KONG SPACE SHORTAGE. HOWEVER FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT MOST CONVENIENT AND ECONOMICAL METHOD OF HOUSING REFUGEES IN HONG KONG IS TO LOCATE CHEAP NONTOURIST HOTEL SPACE. THIS IS ESSENTIAL SINCE UNHCR COST OF \$6.50 PER CAPITA PER DAY WILL SOON BREAK THE BANK.

4. FOR GENEVA: WE RECOGNIZE THAT CIRCUMSTANCES EARLIER IN YEAR DICTATED USE OF HOTEL SINGAPORE, FOR FAST TURNAROUND OPERATION OF CEP. IT IS NOW NECESSARY, HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT UNHOR AND ICEM FIND A HOSTEL OR OTHER ACCOMMODATION AT A LOWER RATE. THIS MATTER SHOULD BE TAKEN UP URGENTLY WITH THOSE ORGANIZATIONS, SO THAT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DETERMINATION WILL BE MADE BY THEM WHETHER TO EXPLORE MACAU OPTION OR FIND INEXPENSIVE FACILITIES IN HONG KONG.

5. IRC HAS A HOSTEL IN HONG KONG WHICH THEY ARE CONSIDERING EXPANDING. WOULD APPRECIATE HONG KONG REACTION TO POSSIBLE USE OF THIS FACILITY. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 23-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE281094
Document Source: Concept Co

Document Unique ID: 00 **Drafter:** LROSENBLATT:LGS

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Expiration:

Film Number: D770435-0988

Format: TEL From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771124/aaaaatyv.tel

Line Count: 103 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: b2863712-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ORIGIN HA

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 77 HONG KONG 14154

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 10-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 468974 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: INDOCHINA REFUGEE CENTER PROPOSED FOR MACAU AND OVERCROWDING IN HONG KONG.

TAGS: SREF, MC To: HONG KONG

GENEVA

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b2863712-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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